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Reconsideration of the captioned application as amended herewith and in view of the following Remarks and Arguments is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 9 - 15 will be pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3 – 5, 7, 9 – 11, and 13 – 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over RD 382014 A in combination with WO 9925318 to Pung et al. ("318"). Claim 12 was rejected as being unpatentable over RD 382014 A in combination with '318, in further combination with United States Patent No. 5,116,563 to Thomas et al. ("563").

Amendments To The Claims

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to limit the shape of the raised elements to circular dots. Support for these amendments comes from page 6, lines 16 – 17, and page 7, lines 25 – 30 of the specification as filed. Claim 5 has been canceled.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) Have Been Overcome

Claims 1, 3 – 5, 7, 9 – 11, and 12 – 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over the combination of RD 382014 A with '318 and '563. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that RD 382014 teaches textured articles with raised elements, but acknowledged that the reference does not teach the claimed substrate. The Examiner then relied on '318 for teachings related to wipe substrates. The Examiner also acknowledged that RD 382014 and '318 do not teach the claimed coating techniques, and relied upon '563 for teachings related to coating techniques.

As amended, the present invention requires raised elements in the form of circular dots. In contrast to the present invention, RD 382014 requires scoop-shaped or M shaped elements to collect and remove bowel movements from the skin. The reference states that suitable raised element shapes are also taught in United States Patent No. 5,058,247 and United States Patent No. 5,116,563. Both Patents teach raised elements that have tails or prongs (see Figures 6A – 9B of 5,116,563 and Figures 2 and 4 of 5,058,247). In contrast to the teachings of '563 and '247, the present inventors avoid tailing in order to provide raised circular dots (see page 6, lines 9 – 12 of the specification as filed).

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest raised elements in the form of circular dots on a wipe substrate. The raised elements of RD 382014 need a cavity in order to collect bowel movements. The raised elements of RD 382014 therefore can not be

circular dots. As discussed above, the shapes taught in '247 and '563 are not circular dots. Furthermore, neither '318 nor '563 teach or suggest raised elements in the form of circular dots.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the references does not provide the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing presents a full and complete response to the present Office Action. Applicants believe that this Amendment After Final places the case in condition for allowance, therefore Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment into the case and passage of the Claims to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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